

Introduced by Senators Huff and Nguyen
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chang and Kim)

April 30, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52—Relative to Asian and Pacific
Islander American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 52, as introduced, Huff. Asian and Pacific Islander American
Heritage Month.

This measure would recognize May 2015 as Asian and Pacific Islander
American Heritage Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One of the earliest records of Asian and Pacific
2 Islander Americans in North America dates back to 1763 in what
3 is now known as New Orleans, Louisiana, where Filipino sailors
4 who worked the Manila-Acapulco trade route settled; and

5 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made
6 indelible contributions to the history of California and the United
7 States that include, but are not limited to, building the
8 Transcontinental Railroad, serving honorably in the Armed Forces,
9 fighting for the United States in foreign wars, and advocating for
10 civil rights; and

11 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have endured
12 hardships, including unjust working conditions, prejudice, and
13 discrimination, in some of the darkest times in our state's and
14 nation's history, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, naturalized
15 citizenship ineligibility, the Alien Land Law, antimiscegenation
16 laws, and Japanese internment; and

1 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to
2 cultivate, advance, and lead in the fields of art, fashion, business,
3 technology, education, science, government, law, humanities,
4 medicine, sports, and entertainment; and

5 WHEREAS, California is home to over 5.8 million Asian and
6 Pacific Islander Americans, more than any other state, and Asian
7 and Pacific Islander Americans are one of the fastest growing
8 ethnic populations in the state and nation; and

9 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans constitute
10 16 percent of California's population and represent diverse
11 ancestries that include, but are not limited to, Asian Indian,
12 Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro,
13 Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iu-Mien, Iwo
14 Jiman, Guamanian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Malaysian,
15 Maldivian, Mongolian, Nepalese, Native Hawaiian, Vietnamese,
16 Okinawan, Pakistani, Samoan, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Thai,
17 Tongan, and other ancestries that may be traced to various Pacific
18 Islands; and

19 WHEREAS, California's Asian and Pacific Islander American
20 entrepreneurs are innovative and lead many successful businesses
21 to the pinnacle of their respective industries nationally and globally,
22 and own over 500,000 businesses in California; and

23 WHEREAS, The California Commission on Asian and Pacific
24 Islander American Affairs was established in 2004 and is charged
25 with advising the Governor, the Legislature, and state agencies on
26 issues relating to the social and economic development, rights,
27 and interests of California's Asian and Pacific Islander American
28 communities; and

29 WHEREAS, The Legislature has 12 Asian and Pacific Islander
30 Assembly Members and Senators who represent and advocate for
31 the interests of the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander American
32 communities; and

33 WHEREAS, The federal government officially designates May
34 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month; and

35 WHEREAS, Celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander American
36 Heritage Month provides Californians with an opportunity to
37 recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of Asian
38 and Pacific Islander Americans; now, therefore, be it

39 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
40 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commends Asian and

1 Pacific Islander Americans for their notable accomplishments and
2 contributions to California, and recognizes May 2015 as Asian
3 and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
5 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O